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Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre Rural District Council

6-FEB 1945

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1943

E. A. Bailey, Printer, Tonyrefail

Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre
Rural District Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

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Year ended 31st December, 1943

E. A. Bailey, Printer, Tonyrefail

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

My Annual Report is this year again curtailed.

The general health of the district has been maintained. The incidence of notifiable Infectious Diseases was on the whole small, with the exception of Measles and Diphtheria. The relatively high incidence of diphtheria was due to a localized epidemic in Gilfach Goch which has recurred for a few years now. This particular area seems to be heavily infected with the diphtheria germ and many of the cases appear to be of the gravis type There is a good deal of congestion and relative overcrowding in Gilfach Goch which makes matters worse. One means of tackling all Infectious Diseases in my view is by improving the environment, i.e., better housing, more space in the house per person, a better standard of cleanliness in the house and more of a garden area than is to be found at present.

I am bound to mention again the inadequacy of the Isolation Hospital buildings, and all that it entails.

With regard to Diphtheria Immunization, I have to make the same complaints as in previous years, that in spite of all that has been done, parents will not have their children immunized and even when forms have been signed, parents will not bring their children to be immunized even after three or four reminders have been sent them by post.

With regard to Housing—a certain amount of difficulty has been found in getting housing repairs done; many reasons being put forward by house owners and contractors, the chief being shortage of materials and labour.

The Council bought two new Sun-ray lamps—a duo-therapy for general treatment and a Kromayer for specialized and local treatment. At present both these lamps are kept at the Tonyrefail clinic.

A certain amount of Sun-ray work has been undertaken for other Local Authorities.

Another Nursery Centre was opened at Church Village. It is accommodated on the ground floor of the Council's Maternity

and Child Welfare Clinic. The garden at the back of the building has been turfed, thus providing a safe playground during the dry weather.

In regard to maternity cases, the striking feature this year has been the number of expectant mothers who wanted to be confined in hospital. It was impossible to satisfy the demand; it was found to be a difficult year in this respect.

We have again been fortunate in that no enemy action occurred in the area during the year.

Soldiers billeted in the surrounding area have been given facilities for bathing at the First Aid Post.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking my staff for their work and also the Civil Defence Services Personnel for their continued loyalty and also the local W.V.S. for the willing help always given when required.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. ISLWYN EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chairman of the Council : Councillor I. Jacob, J.P.

COMMITTEES

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. Betty.

and Councillors S. C. Temblett, P. Jefferies, F. E. Whereat, T. Griffiths, D. J. Davies, G. John, E. J. Llewelyn, D. S. Rowlands, A. Evans, W. Long, Dr. Moody Jones, J. W. Clayton, A. E. Griffith, J. W. Raines, J. T. Griffiths and I. Jacob; with Mrs. Warburton, Pontyclun; Mrs. Davies, Beddau; Mrs. E. Evans and Mrs. I. Evans, Tonyrefail; Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Bonner, Gilfach Goch; Mrs. Clayton and Mrs. A. E. Griffith, Llantwit Fardre; and Mrs. Jewell, Llantrisant.

Hospital Committee :

Chairman : Councillor G. John.

and Councillors S. C. Temblett, P. Jefferies, F. E. Whereat, I. Jacob, T. Griffiths, D. J. Davies, E. J. Llewelyn, A. R. Locke, D. S. Rowlands, Mrs. Betty, A. Evans, W. Long, Dr. W. Moody Jones, J. W. Clayton, A. E. Griffith, J. W. Raines and J. T. Griffiths.

Public Health Committee :

Chairman : Councillor W. Long.

and Councillors S. C. Temblett, P. Jefferies, I. Jacob, T. Griffiths, D. J. Davies, G. John, E. J. Llewelyn, A. R. Locke, D. S. Rowlands, Mrs. Betty, J. T. Griffiths, F. E. Whereat, J. W. Clayton, A. E. Griffith and J. W. Raines.

Housing Committee :

Chairman : Councillor A. E. Griffith.

and Councillors S. C. Temblett, P. Jefferies, F. E. Whereat, T. Griffiths, D. J. Davies, G. John, E. J. Llewelyn, A. R. Locke, D. S. Rowlands, Mrs. Betty, A. Evans, W. Long, Dr. W. Moody Jones, J. T. Griffiths, J. W. Clayton, A. E. Griffith, J. W. Raines, I. Jacob.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

T. ISLWYN EVANS, M.A. (Cantab.), M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (R.C.P. & S.).

Part-time Medical Officer for Ante-natal Work :

GRACE M. PHILLIPS, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Contraceptive Clinic :

SYBIL MORGAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

Sanitary Inspectors :

Mr. JOHN DYER, 60 Mill Street, Tonyrefail (Sanitary and Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute).

Mr. W. ROBERT WILLIAMS, Tŷ Gwyn, Penygawsi, Llantrisant (Sanitary and Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute; Joint Testamur of the University of Wales and Cardiff Technical College).

Health Visitors :

Mrs. A. M. JENKINS, 39 Mill Street, Tonyrefail (Certificate of Midwifery Board).

Mrs. H. GREY, Glyn Eirlys, Llantwit Fardre (Certificate of Midwifery Board, Health Visitors' and School Nurses' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, County Council Social Service Certificate).

Mrs. B. JAMES, Highcroft, Maesycoed, Pontypridd (State Registered Nurse, Certificate of Midwifery Board, Health Visitors' and School Nurses, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute).

Miss A. THOMAS, 6 School Street, Tonyrefail (State Registered Nurse, State Certified Midwife, Health Visitors' and School Nurses' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute).

Clerical Staff :

Miss M. E. ROBLIN.

Miss N. Slade was appointed as additional clerk in January, 1943. She left in September and Mrs. G. David was appointed.

Hospital Staff :

Matron : Miss L. E. BASSETT
1 Staff Nurse.
4 Assistant Nurses.
3 Probationer Nurses.

Additional Nurses are employed if and when found necessary.

LLANTRISANT AND LLANTWIT FARDRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT, 1943

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District : 18,433 acres.
Rateable Value : £96,878.
Sum produced by a Penny Rate : £368.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In general these are much the same as for the previous year.

EVACUEES.

The following official evacuees came into the area during the year :—

Mothers	23
Other adults	4
Unaccompanied children	31
Accompanied children	43
	101

and 360 official evacuees returned home during this period leaving 608 in the area at the end of the year.

Mwyndy Hostel.

Cases of evacuees requiring special attention are still being sent to the Hostel.

SCABIES.

The following number of persons were treated at the Scabies Cleansing Centre during the year :—

Children	333
Adults	93

Impetigo is also treated at the Centre.

Most of the patients for whom appointments were given, made use of the facilities afforded them but some failed to keep the appointments.

WAR-TIME NURSIERIES.

There are now three Nurseries in the area. One at Tonyrefail, one at Beddau and one at Church Village.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of live births has decreased, being 456 against 470 for 1942.

Deaths.

The number of deaths during the year was 251 as compared with 247 for 1942.

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

The number of deaths was 19, the same number as last year.

Tuberculosis.

The deaths from this disease numbered 11 as compared with 13 for the previous year. Eight males and one female died from pulmonary tuberculosis and two males from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Cancer.

The deaths from cancer numbered 33 as compared with 36 for the previous year, 23 males and 10 females.

Respiratory Diseases (all forms).

The number for 1943 is 36 as compared with 29 for 1942.

Maternal Mortality.

During the year there were three maternal deaths, one more than for the previous year.

Live Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	232	204	436
Illegitmate	11	9	20
	243	213	456

Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitmate	8 ...	6 ...	14
Illegitmate	— ...	— ...	—
	8	6	14

HEALTH SERVICES.

These are the same as for previous years.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Clinic Centres are the same as for the previous year.

ULTRA VIOLET RAY CLINIC.

A new clinic was opened at Tonyrefail on the 11th March, 1943, and the cases treated during the year at the Tonyrefail and Beddau clinics were as follows :—

Beddau.

New Cases	60
Total Attendances	677

Tonyrefail.

New Cases	103
Total Attendances	1078

SUMMARY OF HEALTH VISITORS' REPORTS.

Attendances at Clinics (Total).

Infants under one year—

First attendances	476
Total attendances	4568

Children 1—5 years—

First attendances	59*
Total attendances	2810

Expectant Mothers—

Total number of mothers who attended	585
Total attendances	1831

TOTAL HOME VISITS (Maternity and Child Welfare).

Children under one year—

First Visits	445
Total Visits	2220

Children 1 to 5 years—

Total Visits	4932

Expectant Mothers—

First Visits	328
Total Visits	629

There is a decrease in the numbers of home visits paid as compared with last year and this due to the fact that several of the Health Visitors were away ill during the year.

Number of Cases Treated at the Treatment Clinics of the Glamorgan County Council.

(a) Children under five and not attending elementary schools :—

Orthopaedic	28
Dental	15
Ear, Nose and Throat	2
Ophthalmic	9

(b) Expectant and Nursing Mothers :—

Dental	33

A regrettable number of people do not keep their appointments although as many as three appointments are given them, and many more refuse treatment when offered it.

* This shows a tremendous drop from the previous year when the large number was due to evacuees.

Hospital Maternity Cases.

Number of women admitted to Llwynypia Hospital	54
Number of women admitted to Central Homes, Pontypridd, on domiciliary grounds	54
Number of women admitted to Gwaunfarren House (official evacuees)	2
Number of Home Helps provided	Nil

HOME HELPS.

In view of the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 2729, the Council decided to advertise in the Press, &c., for applications from women between the ages of 40 to 60 to join a panel of Home Helps. Not a single application was received.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

Consulting Obstetrician :
Professor GILBERT I. STRACHAN, M.D., F.R.C.S.

The services of Professor Strachan are available to any prospective mother attending any of the Council's Ante-natal Clinics, and who presents any complications requiring specialized treatment during labour, at her home.

This service may be arranged only through the Medical Officer of Health. Provision is also made for consultations with Dr. Strachan for women attending the Ante-natal Clinics and showing signs of special difficulty, and for cases of Puerperal Fever.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS' ACT.

Number of children on Register at the end of the year ... Nil
The usual notice was placed in the local Press.

FEVER HOSPITAL.

I must again emphasize the great difficulty in working this hospital for the reasons I have mentioned in previous Annual Reports. Staffing and accommodation difficulties are extremely acute.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There was an increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases notified and a decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of Whooping Cough notified but a considerable increase in the number of cases of Measles.

Two cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever were notified as compared with four for 1942. One case of Typhoid was notified.

With regard to the other Infectious Diseases there was not much difference in the numbers notified.

There was a great increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. The cases notified were :—

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
61	11	10	4

The great increase in the number of cases notified of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Males is due to the large number of cases notified from the R.A.F. Hospital, Church Village. These patients are only in the hospital for a short period and are then transferred to Sanatoria, &c., outside this area, and their names are removed from the register for this area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	No. Notified	No. admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	76	32	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	2	—
Pneumonia	12	—	15*
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	1	1
Acute polio encephalitis	—	—	—
Measles	253	—	1
Whooping Cough	8	—	—
Diphtheria	80	80	2

* This number includes Primary Bronchial Pneumonia, which is not notifiable.

ACTIVE IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The above scheme was continued in the area during the year under review, both in schools and in Infant Welfare Centres.

Total number of children under 5 who received one injection of A.P.T.	123
Total number of children between 5 and 15 who received one injection of A.P.T.	96
Total number of children under 5 who completed treatment	316
Total number of children between 5 and 15 who completed treatment	353

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sewage Effluents.

Total number of samples examined at the County Laboratory showing :—

Efficient or fairly efficient purification	17
Non-efficient purification	Nil

Sources of Water Supply.

The sources of water supply are the same as for last year.

Sewage Disposal Areas.

The same as for previous years.

HOUSING.

The housing position is still serious and, owing to the shortage of labour and materials, some difficulty has been experienced in getting satisfactory repairs carried out. The demand upon the services of building contractors is so great that often they are unable to commence work until several months after having been instructed. For this reason, and because of high costs, property owners often employ inexperienced amateurs for work which only a skilled craftsman could carry out in a satisfactory manner, with the inevitable result that the quality of the work suffers.

In spite of the difficulties, however, every effort has been made during the year to get essential repairs carried out and, in cases in which it has appeared that owners or their agents were not making genuine efforts to comply with the requirements of notices which had been served upon them, legal proceedings were instituted. But even in such cases magistrates are rather reluctant to make an Order, and usually adjourn the case for a month or so in order to give the person concerned a further opportunity to carry out the work. Usually this course has the desired effect.

Eradication of Bed-bugs.

During the year 16 Council houses and 38 other houses were found to be infested in varying degrees with bed-bugs and were treated with sulphur dioxide or with proprietory brands of disinfectants or insecticides such as Izal, Kilgerm and Zaldecide. In Council houses the work of disinfestation was carried out by the Council's workmen, but in other houses it was usually done by the occupiers under the direction of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Public Cleansing.

There have been complaints from time to time of householders throwing household rubbish in streams and thereby polluting them. Such rubbish is also thrown into back lanes. It is impossible to pin down the culprits.

Smoke and Dust Nuisances.

Many complaints come in from the Parish of Llantwit Fardre and from that part of the Llantrisant Parish along the main road from Llantwit to Mwyndy.

Not only do the stacks emit large quantities of grit and this is blown into the Llantwit area when the wind is from the East, but the lorries taking the grit from its dumps at the South Wales Power Station to the pits at Mwyndy spill a tremendous amount on to the main roads during their progress. This, when it dries, is blown into gardens and houses, both by the natural winds and by the draught caused by vehicular traffic. Representations have been made on many occasions to the proper authorities.

Roads.

There are in the district, far too many ' private ' roads, the surfaces of which have never properly been made up. These are a disgrace and a danger especially in the dark. It is easy to knock ones feet against large stones or twist ones ankles in pot-holes. Besides, the surface causes great jolting to vehicles with wearing out of tyres.

Since the war I have noticed a week-end habit of placing on the road surfaces quantities of broken glass. This is getting worse; and I have noticed that it seems to be done deliberately. Frequently broken glass is put in a ' Straight line ' across the roads. Few roads have escaped this treatment.

MILK EXAMINATIONS.

Number of Samples Examined at Laboratory
(Samples taken by Local Sanitary Inspectors).

Type of Milk.

	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Pasteurised	Ordinary or ungraded	Total
Satisfactory	—	1	35	20	56
Fairly Satisfactory	—	—	1	—	1
Unsatisfactory	—	2	12	11	25
Total	—	3	48	31	82

Samples taken by Outside Authorities.

	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Pasteurised	Ordinary or ungraded	Total
Satisfactory ...	—	—	—	5	5
Fairly Satisfactory	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	—	6	1	4	11
Total	—	6	1	9	16

Examinations for Tubercle Bacilli, 2. Result—Negative.

At the end of the year there were 4 licensed producers of Graded Milk in the district. One licensed for the production of T.T. Milk and 3 for Pasteurized.

Meat Inspection.

Butchers' meat sold in the district is distributed from Pontypridd by the Wholesale Meat Traders' Association, Ltd. (acting as agents for the Ministry of Food) and is inspected at the place of slaughter. This applies to both home-killed and imported meat and, consequently, it is unusual to find any diseased condition which would render it unfit for human food. Condemnation of meat of this class has usually been due to deterioration during storage.

As in previous years a number of pigs were killed for domestic consumption by their owners, under licence issued by the Food Executive Officer. The total number of licences issued is not known but in 92 cases notification of the time and place of slaughter was given to the Sanitary Inspectors by the owners with the object of having the pigs inspected and, as in other years, a few were found to be affected with tuberculosis. The affected parts were surrendered for disposal, usually quite readily, but sometimes with some reluctance. There can be little doubt that some of the pigs which were not inspected were also affected to some extent and were consumed by the owners and their families. This, in my opinion, is a matter which calls for some action.

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

Number of houses inspected		607
Number of houses repaired :—		
After service of Statutory Notices	65	
After service of Informal Notices	85	
	——	150

Number of new water closets erected	4
Number of new flushing cisterns fixed	21
Number of cases of infectious diseases investigated	207
Number of houses disinfected	215
Number of cesspools emptied	29
Number of visits to factories and workplaces	89
Number of visits to cowsheds, etc.	318
Number of cowsheds altered or reconstructed	2
Number of rat baits laid	562
Number of samples of milk taken for examination	82
Number of samples of water taken for examination	32
Number of domestic pigs (bacon) examined	92

Approximate amount of meat and other foods found to be unfit :—

Meat	388 lbs.
Fish	922 lbs.
Butter	100 lbs.
Cheese	837 lbs.
Preserved and canned goods	604 lbs.
Fruit and vegetables	3404 lbs.
Miscellaneous foods	216 lbs.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS—CASUALTY SERVICE.

Medical Officer in Charge of whole of Civil Defence Casualty Service : —T. Islwyn Evans, Council Offices, Pontyclun, Pontyclun 51 (day); Newtown Llantwit 39 (night).

Fixed First Aid Post—Talbot Green, Llantrisant. Tel. No. Llantrisant 36.

Medical Officer in Charge : Dr. J. C. R. Morgan, Llantrisant. Tel. No. Llantrisant 13.

Deputy Medical Officer in Charge : Dr. J. Brereton, Tonyrefail. Tel. No. Tonyrefail 13.

First Aid Party Depots.

Tonyrefail—St. John's Ambulance Hall, Tonyrefail. Tel. No. Tonyrefail 72.

Gilfach Goch—Co-operative Hall, Gilfach Goch. Tel. No. Gilfach Goch 17.

Church Village—Council Schools, Church Village. Tel. No. Newtown Llantwit 78.

Pontyclun—Council Schools, Pontyclun. Tel. No. Pontyclun 98.

First Aid Point—18 Castellymynach Road, Beddau. Tel. No. Newtown Llantwit 77.

Transport.

Transport Officer : Miss B. Salmon. Tel. No. Pontyclun 43.

Deputy Transport Officer : Mrs. Marsh. Tel. No. Pontyclun 55.

Three Glamorgan County Council Ambulances attached to Pontyclun, Tonyrefail and Church Village Depots respectively.

Cars for First Aid Parties	5
Cars for Sitting Cases	5

and a number of second line cars.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. ISLWYN EVANS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Pontyclun.
12th October, 1944.